REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Lane, U.S. Patent 4,035,462. Claims 1-6 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Savage, U.S. Patent 4,812,323. Also, claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hadden, U.S. Patent 3,640,081. Finally, claims 3, 4 and 7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadden in view of Lane. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a mold for manufacturing pellets of hot-melt ink, wherein the mold creates a mold cavity defined by a first die and a second die wherein the ink is allowed to cool down and solidify in the mold cavity and subsequently at least one of the first and second dies is provided with heating means for remelting the surface of the ink pellets to facilitate their removal from the mold cavity.

As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the upper one of said first and second dies contains a runner hole which has a size sufficient for the introduction of ink into the mold cavity for the manufacture of the ink pellets. Accordingly, part of the structure of the mold of claim 1 contains a runner hole which is specifically designed for the introduction of ink into the mold cavity. Thus, the structure of the mold of claim 1 clearly focuses on the fact that the mold of the present invention is realized for the manufacture of pellets of hot melt ink.

None of the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, even remotely suggest a mold which is specifically designed for manufacture of pellets of hot melt ink. Thus, the Lane reference, U.S. Patent 4,035,462 defines a mold for manufacturing thin-

walled, hollow articles of a thermoplastic resin such as polyethylene, which is completely closed and without seams or a vent hole. Thus, the mold utilized in the Lane patent does not contain a runner hole which has a size sufficient for the introduction of ink into the mold cavity for the manufacture of hot melt ink pellets. Also, there is no suggestion in the referenced patent of the use of a heating block containing a plurality of recesses for accommodating a plurality of the first and/or second dies of a plurality of molds as recited in newly added claim 8 of the present application. Also, newly added claim 9 further defines the recesses of the heating block of claim 8. A quick perusal of the Lane patent will clearly show that the reference is not even remotely concerned with the Applicants problems as they relate to a mold for the manufacture of hot melt ink pellets or the Applicants solution to these problems.

Similarly, the Savage reference, U.S. Patent 4,812,323 is merely concerned with a method for preparing a cup-shaped cookie wherein an upper mold receives a lesser quantity of cooking heat and the lower mold receives a comparatively larger quantity of cooking heat to develop an appropriate balance of baking reaction for producing an acceptable cookie texture and quality. Neither the upper or the lower molds are provided with a runner hole as defined by the present invention, and furthermore, there is no recognition of the use of a heating block as defined in claims 8 and 9 of the present application.

The Hadden reference, U.S. Patent 3,640,081 is directed to a hollow body defined by dies to and for which is utilized for the manufacture of ice bodies. Each mold piece 2 and 4 is mounted on a shaft 10 which is hollow and about which the mold M can be rotated. The shafts 10 are coaxial so as to define an axis of revolution for the mold M. Although each shaft 10 includes a passage 16 which opens into the mold cavity through pin hole 18 the passage, by

definition, only permits the passage of air into the mold and is also specifically designed to hinder the passage of water from the cavity into the passage 16. By definition, if the pin hole cavity 18 is specifically designed to hinder the passage of water therethrough, such a passage would not be a sufficient size to enable the introduction of ink into the mold cavity for the manufacture of hot melt ink pellets as defined by claim 1 of the present application. Thus, the Hadden patent, being concerned with the manufacture of ice bodies cannot possibly contemplate the mold for manufacturing pellets of hot melt ink as defined by the present invention as well as a heating means for effectively causing the release of hot melt ink pellets from the mold cavity during the manufacturing process. Thus, none of the references relied upon by the Examiner can be said to anticipate the present invention under 35 USC §102(b).

Furthermore, the rejection of claims 3, 4 and 7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadden in view of Lane is clearly unattainable since one skilled in the art would not look to technology involving the making of hollow articles of thermoplastic resins as disclosed in Lane to solve problems associated with molding ice bodies as disclosed by the Hadden patent. Such unrelated technologies would militate against combining the references as suggested by the Examiner. In any event, even if, arguendo, such accommodation of references would be possible, in view of the defects in the Hadden and Lane references as discussed hereinabove, such a combination of references would still not suggest the present invention unless the references themselves were completely reconstructed in view of the teachings of the Applicants' own disclosure.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Dated: June 23, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Joseph A. Kolasch
Registration No.: 22,463
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Rd
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant